

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 3 Issue 11 May 28, 2004

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Message from the Mayor | 1 |
| May 12: Jack Valenti Day in the District | 2 |
| Community Profile | 2 |
| DC Holds First Regional Emergency Medical Services Forum | 3 |
| Juvenile Justice System Reform | 3 |
| Luke Moore School Groundbreaking | 4 |
| In2Books Literacy Event | 4 |
| Mayor's Week in Review | 5 |
| District Activities | 5 |
| Community News | 6 |
| Upcoming Events | 6 |

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Penn. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-6561
<http://dc.gov>

Message from the Mayor

Last week, I was pleased to join Metropolitan Police Department Chief Charles Ramsey and other local officials to discuss a major restructuring of our MPD's Police Service Areas (PSAs)—a basic building block of community policing in the District of Columbia.

To publicize the PSA realignment, we joined local residents in a walk-around beginning at MPD's Third District Substation at 750 Park Road, NW. Councilmember Jim Graham (Ward 1) joined us for the event, in which we walked the streets of the area surveying local anti-crime efforts. Our walk concluded at the New Commandment Baptist Church at 625 Park Road.

The goal of our innovative PSA restructuring is to ensure better police services for DC neighborhoods by providing greater flexibility in neighborhood patrols and by aligning PSAs more closely with natural neighborhood boundaries.

The restructuring plan reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 44, and creates new boundaries for all of the PSAs, as well as new boundaries for some police districts. The plan was developed following extensive public discussion and a 60-day review by the DC Council.

Every resident lives in a PSA, and every PSA has a team of police officers and officials assigned to it. Residents should get to know their PSA team members. MPD is currently developing a "PSA Finder," in conjunction with the DC Guide (<http://about.dc.gov>), to help residents easily locate their PSAs and the resources within their communities. The new PSA realignment is an essential component of our effort to reduce crime throughout the city.

Another major component in reducing crime and improving neighborhoods is citizens using their eyes and ears as weapons in dealing with crime and violence. Police and city government can't solve crime problems alone—and that's at the heart of our PSA system. Stopping crime before it happens takes the community coming together.

To learn more about the new PSA boundaries in the District, visit MPD's website and its frequently asked questions page at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSA_new_FAQ.shtml

Each PSA will have a minimum of 21 officers (with the exception of PSA 707, which is primarily Bolling Air Force Base, and therefore needs fewer officers). PSAs with more crime are being assigned more officers, in some cases three or four times the minimum staffing.

We've designated the community we walked around in Ward 1 a crime reduction "hot spot." The Crime Reduction Hot Spots Initiative is a partnership between MPD, the Office of Neighborhood Services and 19 other participating agencies that have committed to dedicating extra resources and services to the District's most violent communities. The initiative aims to reduce crime by combining focused law enforcement efforts with efforts to address the social and environmental factors that contribute to high rates of crime, blight and disorder. Some of the actions we've taken in this hot spot include:

- Regular inspections of all liquor stores
- Accelerated process of boarding up and securing properties
- Installation of 305 new traffic signs, paving of four alleys, and upgrading of lights along Georgia Avenue and in alleys



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

May 12: Jack Valenti Day in the District

May 12 was Jack Valenti Day in the District of Columbia. Senator John Warner from Virginia joined us for an event to celebrate Jack Valenti's storied career in my Ceremonial Office at the John A. Wilson Building in Northwest. This was an important tribute to a man who's been such an integral part of Washington, DC for decades—and who will continue to be in the future.

Texas born, Harvard educated, Jack Valenti has led several lives: a wartime bomber pilot, advertising agency founder, political consultant, White House Special assistant, and movie industry leader.

In his current role as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Motion Picture Association (MPAA), Valenti has presided over and led the American film and television industry as it has confronted a sea change in the landscape of the industry, both in the United States and abroad.

Born in Houston, Texas, Valenti was the youngest (age 15) high school graduate in the city. In the Army Air Corps in World War II, Lieutenant Valenti flew 51 combat missions as the pilot-commander of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, and the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

He has a BA from the University of Houston and a MBA from Harvard. In 1952, he co-founded the advertising/political consulting agency of Weekley & Valenti. In 1955 he met the man who would have the largest impact on his life, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson. Valenti's agency was in charge of the media during the visit of President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson to Texas. Valenti was in the motorcade (six cars back from the President) in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

We honored Jack Valenti on May 12 not only for his dedication as outgoing leader of the MPAA, but for his tireless dedication to the magnificent city of Washington. Valenti's lifetime of service brings to mind the great words of John F. Kennedy, who so poignantly in 1961 said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."



Community Profile Nzingha Tingling-Clemmons

Seventeen-year-old Nzingha Tingling-Clemmons says, "I want to leave the world a better place." A native Washingtonian and Ward 7 resident, Nzingha has touched hundreds of lives across the globe through service-learning summer programs in Kenya and Nicaragua.

Nzingha, named after an African warrior queen who was known for her intelligence, bravery, and determination, traveled to Kenya in the summer of 2002 with the Experiment in International Learning. As a scholarship recipient with the Ambassador Program, she spent nearly six weeks helping others. Her service included building a nursery in a Somali refugee settlement.

Last summer, her service expanded to rural Nicaraguan villages, where she spent a month helping others. She worked with 10 other corps members through the Amigos de las Americas program to improve living conditions for 300 residents. Nzingha and her group taught hygiene habits to children, worked in the local health center, traveled with nurses to inoculate babies, and helped clean up and paint facilities at a local park.

"I was overwhelmed by the experience I had," Nzingha said.

Nzingha is a senior at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and plans to attend Radford University and major in social work. Nzingha is also an active member of the Time Dollar Youth Court, National Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (NCCPUD), and the Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund. Nzingha's favorite quote is from 19th century orator Frederick Douglass who said, "Without a struggle, there can be no progress."

Nzingha is the January youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.serve.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



Nzingha Tingling-Clemmons



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

DC Holds 1st Regional EMS Forum

On the morning of May 19, the District held a Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Forum at the Hyatt Regency in Northwest. Conceived and hosted by DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) Chief Adrian H. Thompson, this regional EMS forum brought together key players and stakeholders in EMS Services from across the greater National Capital Area to discuss challenges in day-to-day and emergency operations that we all face.

The participants in the forum were from a broader community than just top-level officials from Fire, Medical and EMS Departments. Of the 150 individuals in attendance, there were representatives from the hospital community, area Departments of Health, area EMAs, private transport companies, government agencies from 10 counties across Maryland and Virginia, federal agencies, labor unions and a few other private companies.

We are very serious about addressing many of the public safety challenges that our city and neighbors in Maryland and Virginia are currently facing and will face in the years ahead. As all of us know, September 11, 2001 changed our lives forever—not only as local leaders and civil servants, but as citizens of the metropolitan region.

Among the many things that tragic day taught us was the importance of regional cooperation—here in the District, we depend on our neighbors in Maryland and Virginia for guidance, insight and continued cooperation. In recent years, we've made strides in learning from each other. One year ago, Governors Warner and Ehrlich and I launched a series of regional meetings to discuss the challenges we face as a region.

While DC FEMS took a leadership role in conceiving and planning this groundbreaking event, we truly hope that the EMS Forum marked the start of an ongoing regional conversation and collaboration among these stakeholders on the critical topic of pre-hospital care. I hope stakeholders in the region will schedule and host more of these sessions on a regular basis. This is important not only to our day-to-day operations, but is a critical part of cooperation and response in the face of any catastrophic or large-scale emergency incident that threatens the National Capital Region.

As Mayor of Washington, DC, I'd like to thank all of the tireless Fire, Medical and EMS personnel who perform critical services day in and day out here in our region. I'm grateful for your service.

Juvenile Justice System Reform

I was very pleased last week to announce that the District of Columbia has entered into an agreement in the longstanding lawsuit known as "Jerry M. v. District of Columbia." This is great news for our youth in the juvenile justice system and our city as a whole.

Jerry M. is a class action brought in 1985 by the DC Public Defender Service and the ACLU National Prison Project. It stemmed from the dissatisfaction in how the District managed its part of the juvenile justice system, which provides for the care and custody of youth who have run afoul of the law.

Under the agreement, a special arbiter will oversee the transformation of the current system into one that provides state-of-the-art treatment and best-practice rehabilitation to transition youth back to their communities.

While the agreement does not end the litigation, it marks a significant step in the right direction. It brings us into compliance with the court's orders, introducing best practices for detained and committed youth, and moving the lawsuit to an agreed resolution.

We are fortunate that Grace Lopes agreed to accept the position of Special Arbiter. Ms. Lopes has a distinguished record of service in the public interest. She is currently the managing director of the DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice. Formerly, she served as special master in a series of federal class-action lawsuits, including class actions dealing with conditions at the District of Columbia's Lorton prison and the DC Jail.



Luke Moore School Groundbreaking

On May 11, I joined DC school officials and local residents for an inspiring groundbreaking at the Luke C. Moore Academy in the Brookland section of Northeast. With the renovation that we launched, Luke C. Moore will total 69,400 square feet, and will have the capacity to accommodate 350 students—that's 100 more students than it accommodates today.

Students have been attending classes in the historic Brookland Elementary School facility located at the corner of Monroe and 10th Streets in Northeast Washington for more than 20 years. The building, originally constructed in 1891, has been a landmark in the nation's capital and the Brookland community for more than 100 years. Since 1891, two additions were made to the structure; the first in 1896 and the second in 1903. The 27,500 square foot school has the capacity for 200 students and has educated up to 250 students.

In 2001, District of Columbia Public Schools approved Luke C. Moore Academy for modernization and expansion to revitalize the neighborhood landmark as part of its long-range plan to bring a new generation of schools to the nation's capital. The modernization project will include renovation of the historic structure, as well as a new wing.

Luke C. Moore Academy, formerly known as DC Street Academy, serves young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who have dropped out of school or have had difficulties in the traditional school setting. The school provides a caring learning environment and challenges young people to become educated, productive and responsible members of the community.

The academy, nationally accredited by the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, is supported by the United Black Fund, businesses, local and federal government agencies, community leaders, civic groups and churches.

The modernization project, a collaborative effort between District of Columbia Public Schools, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Coakley & Williams Construction Company and the architectural firm of Grimm & Parker Architects, is scheduled for completion by November 2005.

This school holds a special place in our city for its unique approach to educating some of our city's most challenged youngsters. As many of our readers know, I'm a Mayor who believes we need to take creative, bold approaches to educating our city's young people.

In2Books Literacy Event

On Thursday, May 13, I attended a press conference at River Terrace Elementary School to discuss the District's continued cooperation with the innovative DC-based In2Books Literacy Program.

In2Books started in a single elementary school classroom in 1998, and it is now the largest literacy program in the District.

The poet W. B. Yeats once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." As the nation's capital, we wrestle every day with how best to light that fire. The In2Books program gives students fun and meaningful books to read, and an adult pen pal to correspond with about the books. Furthermore, the students not only develop a love of learning, but also develop the tools necessary to become more critical thinkers and writers.

This year, In2Books serves over 5,000 students and 250 teachers, and involves more than 2,000 adult pen pals. Plans for expansion of In2Books for academic year 2004-2005 call for a total of 10,000 students and 5,000 adult pen pals who will participate in approximately 500 DCPS classrooms.

One year ago this month, I helped deliver letters to students at the PR Harris Educational Center in Southeast. I saw firsthand the power that a creative partnership like In2Books can have on our students. Having the In2Books program formally incorporated into the DCPS literacy curriculum is a crucial milestone for our public schools.

Albert Einstein once said, "You can never solve a problem on the level on which it was created." In2Books is helping take us to that next level of problem solving. In the next several years, the entire learning community is expected to grow to include more than 50,000 students, teachers, family members and adult pen pals reading, discussing and writing about books in class and at home.



Mayor's Week in Review

Mayor Participates in Roundtable with Community Newspapers

On May 13, I participated in a roundtable discussion with community media outlets including Asian, Latino, weekly papers and monthly papers. The topic of the roundtable was my efforts regarding school governance here in the District.

Mayor Delivers Remarks at Regional EMS Forum

On May 19, I delivered remarks at the Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Forum at the Hyatt Regency in Northwest.

Mayor Delivers Remarks at Citizens Event

On May 19, I delivered remarks at the 94th Annual Awards Banquet of the Federation of Citizens Associations here in the District. The event was held at Fort McNair in Southwest.

Mayor Meets with Paraguay Official

On May 21, I met at the John A. Wilson Building with Ambassador James Spalding Hellmers of Paraguay for a diplomatic courtesy visit.

Mayor Walks Around Ward 1 Neighborhood

On May 21, along with MPD Chief Charles Ramsey, City Administrator Robert Bobb, Councilmember Jim Graham and members of the community, I walked around the Georgia Avenue and Park Road neighborhood, one of 14 "crime reduction hot spots" in the city.

Mayor Participates in Kickball Tournament

On May 22, I participated in the inaugural Mayor's Cup Kickball Classic Tournament. The World Kickball Association helped raise support for the District's *Safe Passages Summer*.

Mayor Attends Funeral of Terry Hairston

On May 22, I attended the funeral of Terry Hairston, a former member of the School Board who was an inspirational community leader.

Mayor Makes Remarks at Youth Summit

On May 22, I participated in a summit of young people discussing violence in our community and ways to combat it.

District Activities



Mayor Williams views an alley during a walk-through in Ward 1 with City Administrator Robert Bobb and other local officials on May 21. The walk-through was part of an announcement regarding the District's new Police Service Areas (PSAs) and efforts to curb crime in the city's "hot spots."



Mayor Williams took in a tour and posed for photos during a visit to a clean-up on Pennsylvania Avenue in Southeast on May 22.

Community News

- Mayor Williams Testifies on FY 2005 District Budget
- Mayor Williams Presents Jack Valenti with Key to City

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

| | |
|------|--|
| 5/29 | National World War II Memorial Dedication The Mall, at the end of reflecting pool 2 pm - 4 pm |
| 5/29 | OLA Youth and Education Fair 3149 16th Street, NW 10 am - 4 pm |
| 6/4 | Citywide Day of Prayer Prayer Services throughout the District 12 noon |
| 6/5 | UNI-LOVE A Day of Remembrance, Atonement, Reconciliation and Consecration March begins at Ballou Senior High School 3401 4th Street, NE and ends at W Street and MLK Avenue 10 am - 7 pm |

